

II) Please Amend Claims 1, 3-16, 18-23, and 25-26 as set for the blow:

(Currently Amended) 1. A security tag comprising:

5 a tag body;

 an attaching means for attaching said tag body to an article;

 and

10 a locking means for releasably preventing said attaching

 means from being removed from said article wherein said

 locking means is provided ~~for~~ to mechanically release by

asserting a rotational force along a traversal direction to said

15 locking means or magnetically ~~released~~ release by applying

a magnetic force along a vertical direction to said locking

means to release said attaching means for detaching said tag

 body from said article.

(Original) 2. The security tag of claim 1 wherein:

20 said locking means further includes a plurality of balls for

 tightly holding to said attaching means for releasably

 preventing said attaching means from being removed from

 said article.

25 (Currently Amended) 3. The security tag of claim 2 wherein:

 said locking means further includes a mechanical unlocking

 means for mechanically applying a rotational ~~mechanical~~

30 force to said locking means to release said balls from said

 attaching means whereby said attaching means may be

 released and detached from said tag body.

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(Currently Amended) 4. The security tag of claim 2 wherein:

5 said locking means further includes a magnetic unlocking
 means for magnetically applying a ~~mechanical~~ vertical
 magnetic force to said locking means to release said balls
 from said attaching means whereby said attaching means
 may be released and detached from said tag body.

(Currently Amended) 5. The security tag of claim 2 wherein:

10 said locking means further includes a ball tightening and
 loosening means for tightening said balls to said attaching
 means; and

15 said locking means further includes a mechanical unlocking
 means for mechanically applying a rotational ~~mechanical~~
 force along a traversal direction to said ball tightening and
 loosening means for loosening said balls from said attaching
20 means whereby said attaching means may be released and
 detached from said tag body.

(Currently Amended) 6. The security tag of claim 2 wherein:

25 said locking means further includes a ball tightening and
 loosening means for tightening said balls to said attaching
 means; and

30 said locking means further includes a magnetic unlocking
 means for applying a ~~mechanical~~ magnetic force along a
 vertical direction to release said balls from said attaching
 means whereby said attaching means may be released and
 detached from said tag body.

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(Currently Amended) 7. The security tag of claim 5 wherein:

5 said ball tightening and loosening means further includes a
ball surrounding surface defining a restrict space and an
expanded space for forcing said balls into said restrict space
for tightening said balls to said attaching means; and

10 said mechanical unlocking means further mechanically
applying a rotational ~~mechanical~~ force to said ball
surrounding surface along a traversal direction to move said
balls to said expanded space of said ball tightening and
loosening means for loosening said balls from said attaching
means whereby said attaching means may be released and
detached from said tag body.

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(Currently Amended) 8. The security tag of claim 6 wherein:

20 said ball tightening and loosening means further includes a
ball surrounding surface defining a restrict space and an
expanded space for forcing said balls into said restrict space
for tightening said balls to said attaching means; and

25 said magnetic unlocking means further applying a magnetic
force along a vertical direction to said surrounding surface
to move said balls to said expanded space of said ball
tightening and loosening means for loosening said balls
from said attaching means whereby said attaching means
may be released and detached from said tag body.

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(Currently Amended) 9. The security tag of claim 7 wherein:

5 said ball tightening and loosening means further includes ball holding cup having a plurality of holes for each of said balls surrounded by said ball surrounding surface wherein said locking means pressing said ball holding cup for forcing said balls into said restrict space for tightening said balls to said attaching means; and

10 said mechanical unlocking means further mechanically applying a ~~mechanical~~ rotational force along a traversal direction to move said ball holding cup together with said balls to said expanded space of said ball tightening and loosening means for loosening said balls from said attaching means whereby said attaching means may be released and
15 detached from said tag body.

(Currently Amended) 10. The security tag of claim 8 wherein:

20 said ball tightening and loosening means further includes a ball holding cup having a plurality of holes for each of said balls surrounded by said ball surrounding surface wherein said locking means pressing said ball holding cup for forcing said balls into said restrict space for tightening said balls to
25 said attaching means; and

30 said magnetic unlocking means further applying a magnetic force along a vertical direction to move said ball holding cup together with said balls along said vertical direction to said expanded space of said ball tightening and loosening means for loosening said balls from said attaching means whereby said attaching means may be released and detached from said tag body.

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(Currently Amended) 11. The security tag of claim 1 further comprising:

5 a mechanical probe finger for mechanically pushing and
applying a mechanical force along a traversal direction onto
said locking means to rotate and release said attaching
means whereby said attaching means may be released and
detached from said tag body.

10 (Currently Amended) 12. The security tag of claim 1 further comprising:

a magnet for applying a magnetic force along said vertical
direction onto said locking means to release said attaching
means whereby said attaching means may be released and
detached from said tag body.

15 (Currently Amended) 13. A security tag comprising an attaching means
for attaching said tag to a protected article further comprising:

20 a locking means for locking said attaching means for
releasably preventing said attaching means from being
removed from said protected article wherein said locking
means is provided to be unlocked for releasing said
attaching means from said tag by one of at two different
kinds of unlocking means wherein each of said two kinds of
25 unlocking means applying at least two different kinds of
forces along at least two different directions to said locking
means.

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(Currently Amended) 14. The security tag of claim 13 wherein:

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said locking means is provided to be unlocked by a mechanical unlocking means applying a rotational force along a traversal direction and a magnetic unlocking means applying a magnetic force along a vertical direction to said locking means.

(Currently Amended) 15. The security tag of claim 13 further comprising:

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a mechanical probe finger for pushing and applying a ~~mechanical~~ rotational force along said traversal direction onto said locking means to release said attaching means whereby said attaching means may be released and detached from said tag body.

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(Currently Amended)16. The security tag of claim 13 further comprising:

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a magnet for applying a magnetic force along said vertical direction onto said locking means to release said attaching means whereby said attaching means may be released and detached from said tag body.

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(Original) 17. The security tag of claim 13 wherein:

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said locking means further includes a plurality of balls for tightly holding to said attaching means for releasably preventing said attaching means from being removed from said article.

(Currently Amended) 18. The security tag of claim 13 wherein:

5 said locking means further includes a mechanical unlocking
 means for mechanically applying a ~~mechanical~~ rotational
 force along said traversal direction to release said balls from
 said attaching means whereby said attaching means may be
 released and detached from said security tag.

(Currently Amended) 19. The security tag of claim 13 wherein:

10 said locking means further includes a magnetic unlocking
 means for applying a magnetic force along said vertical
 direction to release said balls from said attaching means
 whereby said attaching means may be released and
15 detached from said security tag.

(Currently Amended) 20. A method for protecting an article by using an
attaching means for attaching a security tag to a protected article further
comprising:

20 preventing said attaching means from being removed from
 said protected article by releaseably locking said attaching
 means and unlocking and releasing said attaching means
 from said tag by either one of at two different kinds of
25 unlocking means with each of said two kinds of unlocking
 means applying at least two different kinds of forces along at
 least two different directions to said locking means.

(Currently Amended) 21. The method of claim 20 wherein:

5 said step of locking said attaching means and then unlocking
said attaching means by either of at least two different kinds
of unlocking means further comprising a step of unlocking
said attaching means by either a mechanical unlocking
means for applying a rotational force along a traversal
10 direction and a magnetic unlocking means for applying a
magnetic force along a vertical direction to said locking
means.

(Currently Amended) 22. The method claim 21 further wherein:

15 said step of unlocking said attaching means by a mechanical
unlocking means further comprising a step of applying a
mechanical probe finger for pushing and applying a
~~mechanical~~ rotational force along said traversal direction
onto said locking means to release said attaching means
whereby said attaching means may be released and
20 detached from said tag body.

(Currently Amended) 23. The method of claim 21 further comprising:

25 said step of unlocking said attaching means by a magnetic
unlocking means further comprising a step of applying a
magnet for applying a magnetic force along said vertical
direction onto said locking means to release said attaching
means whereby said attaching means may be released and
detached from said tag body.

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(Original) 24. The method of claim 21 wherein:

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said step of releaseably locking said attaching means further comprising a step of employing a plurality of balls for tightly holding to said attaching means for releaseably preventing said attaching means from being removed from said article.

(Currently Amended) 25. The security tag of claim 24 wherein:

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said step of unlocking said attaching means further comprising a step of employing a mechanical unlocking means for mechanically applying a ~~mechanical~~ rotational force along said traversal direction to release said balls from said attaching means whereby said attaching means may be released and detached from said security tag.

(Currently Amended) 26. The security tag of claim ~~13~~ 24 wherein:

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said step of unlocking said attaching means further comprising a step of employing a magnetic unlocking means for applying a magnetic force along said vertical direction to release said balls from said attaching means whereby said attaching means may be released and detached from said security tag.

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